



Lloyd Taylor
Oral History Transcription
Feb. 11, 2008 *

Interviewed by:	Derek Webb
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Transcribed by:	Howard Dukes, staff, Civil Rights Heritage Center
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Summary:	Former South Bend City Engineer at a time when public works projects were being done in the LaSalle Park neighborhood.

* Note: Side B of the original audio cassette contains audio that appears to have been recorded during a lecture. It does not contain the continuation of this oral history.

- 00:00:00 [Derek Webb] Good afternoon. It's Feb. 11, 2008. Today I, Derek Webb, am interviewing Lloyd Taylor for the Indiana University South Bend Oral History Project. Mr. Taylor was the former South Bend city engineer. Today I am going to be asking him questions regarding his involvement in the LaSalle Park neighborhood in the late '60s. The interview will be conducted at his home. Alright. Well, we should get started and you can tell me a little bit about maybe your... just involvement in South Bend. How it came to be that you were the city engineer and...
- 00:00:55 [Lloyd Taylor] Well, Lloyd Allen was elected mayor in 19... actually in 1963. In the fall. He took over as mayor and we wanted to change in the office of the city engineer. At that time the city engineer was a member of the Board of Public Safety and there was three members; the city attorney the city controller and the city engineer. So, I joined them... the Allen administration in, August of 1964. And of course, I was primarily involved in the civil engineering aspects of the development of the city. Primarily of course in our early years the big problem was the streets. You think the streets have chuckholes now you should have seen the chuckholes in 1964. They were terrible and he had campaigned primarily on fixing the streets. So, my big responsibility was getting the streets fixed which we did over a couple of years and then of course we took on a number of other projects after that but from the standpoint of LaSalle Park and what was it the Ohio-Keasey... I don't know if that rings a bell with you or not.
- [DW] It does, yeah.
- 00:02:54 [LT] Ohio-Keasey redevelopment project. We weren't directly involved in those projects until 1972 when I became director of redevelopment. And then of course I was directly involved in all of those projects and I made some changes in that I felt the city especially the engineering department should have more responsibility. As an example, I was sitting in a restaurant one morning and it was cold and snowy, and I saw them start to do some paving. And I said who's doing that out here in the snow. It turned out it was a redevelopment project I didn't know anything about. And so that was the main thing for me to get those kind of projects that they were doing under the city engineer. They still paid for them, but we controlled those. That... what questions do you have?
- 00:04:13 [DW] Well, part of it is just understanding it on a very basic level how sort of the city engineer's office worked. Also, how redevelopment worked. You said that redevelopment was based on grants from HUD and then... but they did have autonomy prior to you becoming director?
- [LT] They were under... I don't know if I'll get this totally straight. Redevelopment commission which basically hired me, and I worked for them over them was... and I don't know if this is a correct word any more

or not but a board of trustees which was another level of bureaucracy over the redevelopment department and there had been a lot of problems up until that time. Primarily between the city council and this so-called bureaucracy that was out there that they had no control over. So, like I said I wasn't involved in doing any part of that until 1972 when I became the redevelopment director and we straightened some of that out.

00:05:37 [DW] Now was the source of conflict say between the board of trustees and the city council development? The city council sort of overpower and who should have oversight or what was the...

[LT] Well, I think yeah, I guess that would be the simplest way to put it. I wasn't a member of the city council, but I know there was always a conflict. I think if we go back read newspaper articles from that time see some conflict between those two bodies. It wasn't something that they were calling each other names necessarily but it was [inaudible] were unhappy with the way things worked.

[DW] Now was redevelopment sort of... it was created as a federal program?

[LT] Correct.

[DW] Ok and this was in the 60s or...

[LT] Yeah it would have been in the 60s

[DW] Ok. And sort of the goal of redevelopment was too...

[LT] Redevelopment of neighborhoods.

[DW] Right. Ok.

00:06:49 [LT] And we took on... like Ohio-Keasey was a fairly good-sized project, but LaSalle park was a lot bigger project and these were... I don't know if ghetto was the right word or not but they were as close to a ghetto as you could get. And I think of course Ohio-Keasey virtually got torn down and it's where the Juvenile Justice is now. Ivy Tech. It was built up that way. Now there is some behind it you have east you have some housing but that came much later. Lasalle Park was really just kind of a disaster area. The streets weren't much at all and so we went in and in that project and really re-laid out the street pattern to some extent not a great deal but to some extent. We laid out that street pattern and we stabilized and resurfaced those streets and of course that really brought the neighborhood in they have to realize to that one of the HUD's... HUD yeah. HUD's criteria was that you had to use and I... runs in my mind 75 percent of neighborhood people in the project. We had 100 people in the

project 75 had to be from the neighborhood. It was very difficult to go out into a neighborhood like that and find 75 people

00:08:45 [DW] You mean as far as workers?

[LT] Workers, inspectors primarily and then also the contractors had to be minority contractors from the neighborhood, and they expect you to get them and that also was kind of a problem, but you had to follow the guidelines

[DW] Sure. That was a problem because there wasn't necessarily people available or qualified to...

[LT] Qualified, qualified.

[DW] Do that kind of work. Ok the thinking was that the government ultimately wanted to put money back in the community.

[LT] Right.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] That was a good idea. I mean if you're going to redevelop somebody's neighborhood employ people in the neighborhood to do it.

[DW] Sure.

[LT] And [inaudible] that there are still some people around that I worked with at that time some of the primarily the church pastors out there. What was his name? I can't remember now.

[DW] Would it be maybe Rev. Crockett or...

[LT] That could be. One that started with K. Rev. Kirk.

[DW] Doesn't ring a bell but it's definitely possible.

[LT] Rev. Kirk.

[DW] LaSalle Park was... you said the streets needed a lot of work. Were they unpaved or...

00:10:25 [LT] Well, if they were paved you couldn't tell. They had deteriorated to that point that they were just terrible. And we did a lot of sidewalk work curb work. Things like that.

[DW] I've heard that before there wasn't sidewalks before the redevelopment.

[LT] Right. We did the primarily infrastructure. And I'm just trying to think... first, we loaned money to people to primarily upgrade their homes.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] And that part of the inspection process if we loaned somebody \$10,000 to put a new roof on their house then we had to hire a contractor to do that. Then they had inspectors go out and make sure the work was done correctly and sometimes there was a lot of conflict on that. Between the inspectors between redevelopment my office and the inspectors themselves

[DW] Ok. Basically, are they citing sort of shoddy work or conflict on what exactly should be done or...

[LT] The basic problem was the inspectors agreeing the work was done properly if it wasn't done properly.

[DW] Ok fair enough

[LT] I don't know whether I want to go any further. I better not.

00:12:26 [DW] Now was... how was the housing stock in general in LaSalle park?

[LT] Well, the housing stock was... the really bad housing we just tore down.

[DW] Was there quite of bit of...

[LT] And even the fact the you can go out there and see that today that there's a lot of vacant lot. The other part... the next layers of houses that could be rehabbed the money was loaned and the people to rehab them.'

[DW] Ok.

[LT] And there was a lot of that done and some of it was successful. Especially on the far east end the first three or four blocks as you go in LaSalle Park those houses came out pretty well. I haven't been to LaSalle park for some time so it's hard for me to remember just what which one were rehabbed at that time.

00:13:37 [DW] Also in the LaSalle Park area there is an area called The Lake and where exactly is the Lake?

[LT] Ok again that's toward the north. What's the street on the north side there? Fremont? Anyway, The Lake is between Washington street and that street.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] And you'll see big mound there.

[DW] And the park where the recreation center is and... Ok.

[LT] And just to the east of that is The Lake.

[DW] Yeah, I've noticed there is sort of a fenced off lake there.

[LT] The Lake and that was the big part of the redevelopment the lake itself was... how do you describe... it was a marsh full of debris and I mean it was just used as a dumping area.

[DW] Now it was sort of a de facto garbage dump. Was it an official city garbage dump?

[LT] No.

[DW] But people definitely threw their refuse in there.

00:14:44 [LT] Right, right. And we went in and pretty well cleaned that lake out. Now on Washington Street... Washington Street ran right along the south side of The Lake and it had sunk considerably because of the muck under The Lake.

[DW] The street itself.

[LT] Yes. You have to if you want history there's a lot of questions about is that the headwaters of LaSalle... not LaSalle.

[DW] Kankakee?

[LT] Kankakee. Headwaters of Kankakee. It probably was or at least it was in Kankakee pattern and of course all that land out there is muck land and we went into Washington street there we took out about I'm gonna say 60 feet of muck we used a system where you surcharged the area by putting fill over it.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] And pushing the muck out like [inaudible] and it's held up pretty well.

[DW] It seems like it must have been fairly successful.

00:16:08 [LT] Yeah. It's fairly successful and all of the muck and everything that came out then was used to fill the sledding hill I guess you can call it.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] The hill you see.

[DW] I've heard rumors of that some of the war housing that was built in the early 40s had actually been torn down some of the cement block housing and some of that debris that was left over was actually helped form part of that hill

[LT] Could be. I can't testify to everything that's in there. An awful lot of muck in there...

[DW] Ok.

[LT] Construction of The Lake itself. And The Lake especially in the early years you know had enough depth in there - water in there that it was fairly decent enough. I have noticed that it's growing up around the edges quite a bit. It's not as attractive

[DW] The barbed wire fence and some of that's still there.

00:17:10 [LT] And unfortunately, you gotta do that these days. Like every time now somebody builds a retention basin you gotta fence it sort of for liability purposes. I see fencing [inaudible] but I don't know, I guess. The airport out there has fenced in a couple of areas.

[DW] I noticed even sort of where The Lake was... I've seen people fishing there. I've heard rumors that there had been maybe some industrial waste that was dumped in there and things of that nature sort of rumors

[LT] Industrial waste would have been 90 percent removed by the cleaning of the lake.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] Now to the north across that street. I still can't think of the name of it was between there and the railroad there's a construction debris put it that way dump in there

[DW] Ok.

[LT] That was not part of LaSalle park. But... and I forget what contractor used that and I don't think that's ever been cleaned up and that might be that area. But I have no knowledge of that

[DW] It still seems to be sort of just a waste site

[LT] Primarily construction debris as I recall

00:18:39 [DW] Would be that be maybe from like from maybe like Culfort building out there and developments?

[LT] No, that was after that.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] That was in fact that was long after I left that they started dumping in that area. Now whether... of course Bendix is right on the other side. Whether Bendix ever dumped in there or not I don't know. Back in those days I have to be a before city engineer I was at Torrington plant engineer for Torrington.

[DW] Here in South Bend.

[LT] Yeah. I was on Sample Street.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] Bearing manufacturing and environmentally in the 1950 and '60s we were not too good about the environment.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] We had pits out in the back at Torrington where we dumped our oils and things like that.

[DW] Just dug a hole basically and...

[LT] Yeah.

[DW] Yeah, ok.

00:19:51 [LT] Yep. Covered it up. Then when I became city engineer one of my big projects was to develop the first sanitary landfill.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] The landfill that is at the east end of the airport runway we developed that land when I became city engineer there was a dump on the west end of the airport.

[DW] Really? Ok.

[LT] A dump.

[DW] On the west end... on the west side of Bendix there?

[LT] No, it's still on the west end of the runway.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] Runway since then it's been extended down there, but at that time it was just purely a dump in fact I think I probably took stuff... it was a city operated dump.

[DW] Ok, and the airport was... was there at the time?

[LT] This was city the airport was there.

[DW] Ok.

00:20:55 [LT] The airport just didn't go that far to the west. And then we closed down that dump by covering it over and opened up the dump landfill at the east end and that of course Keurt Concrete had excavated the gravel under [inaudible] so we're down almost to the water table.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] There. We put in a barrier and then started filling that. And by today's standards it wasn't a very good landfill but by the standards back then people from all around the country came to look and see what we were doing.

[DW] Really, that's quite interesting.

[LT] It was closest you could come to a sanitary landfill. Every day we covered over whatever was in there. It worked pretty well. That's back off the subject.

00:22:02 [DW] Very interesting. So, in LaSalle park there is also mention of... were sewers added at the time of redevelopment was... was that something else?

[LT] To be honest with you I don't remember whether we put sewers in there at that time. I think that there were sewers in there previously. I think so, but I can't say for sure.

[DW] And the entire neighborhood was of course... had electricity and all those kinds of things, right?

[inaudible side question]

[DW] Ok. And another thing that I had read... I actually read a newspaper article about draining of Beck's Lake in the 30s and I guess I was a bit confused about where the larger sort of Beck's Lake must have been was that entire area at some point kind of a lake or

[LT] Well I think like I said it was the head waters of the Kankakee River.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] And you can trace that way back in fact there were bridges... I think there was a bridge on still the walls of the bridge on Johnson Street, which is quite a bit to the north of that. That's just the drainage pattern.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] Came all the way through Beck's Lake and...

00:23:34 [DW] And some of the... obviously some of conflicts seemed to be with the residents of The Lake and I assume at that time was mostly minorities and African-Americans. Is that right?

[LT] Yeah in the 50s and 60s it was. I don't know if you're talking about the '30s, I don't know who was in there. I wasn't here. That's interesting because I don't know that I have anything. I've got a lot of historic books about South Bend, but offhand I don't remember seeing anything.

[DW] There's... I read in a newspaper they talked about transporting fish... the Izzak Walton Chapter in South Bend they transported fish from Beck's Lake to maybe [inaudible] lake or something like that. Kind of interesting. And as far as the... do you remember the war housing that was there?

[LT] I remember it yeah.

[DW] And that was that was government housing I assume at the time.

[LT] In fact, I don't know whether it's still... concrete block house in there.

[DW] There were a couple structures I noticed.

[LT] I think those are a part of that whole original government housing

00:24:54 [DW] Ok. Some of that was demolished in the then during the redevelopment process.

[LT] Yeah. It was about several times more of those begin with than what's left now. My recollection is that's about two of them left. But like I said I haven't been to LaSalle park for so long I don't know.

[DW] I know part of it there was they had some cement block that's still left. I know they tore some of the war housing down just not exactly sure which ones. I know in its place they built the LaSalle park homes and I wonder if you recalled anything about that.

[LT] No, I wasn't really involved in the building of those. That was after we finished LaSalle park of course it was [inaudible] to build that sort of thing, but like I said I was already at redevelopment for years. That would have been after I left.

00:25:56 [DW] Ok. One of the things that sort of came up in talking to people from that area and whatnot they had a lot of complaints they said that sort of their neighbors... white neighbors and what not had maybe nicer amenities. Sort of the streets were paved in those areas before the minority areas and they had to sort or advocate or put pressure on the city to pay attention to them and I wonder if there was any validity to those kind of complaints.

[LT] I would say that the streets which were like I told you before were just terrible in the whole city and obviously we tried to pave the arterial streets before we got into the neighborhoods. To pave the neighborhoods. And basically, under Indiana law when a neighborhood street was reconstructed it was supposed to be assessed to done by the property owners.

[DW] Ok.

00:27:00 [LT] That's the law. Anyway, it was very controversial because people just didn't want to pay for having a street. In fact, at that time while we lived Inwood Estates and we had moved from Wooden Estates which was a nice neighborhood out near Notre Dame a wooded area...

[DW] Was Angela there?

[LT] Yeah. And went in we went in and paved all those streets.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] But the people all paid for them under the assessment from flood. A minority person sees that happen and wonders why can't get my street paved because you can't afford to pay.

[DW] Cost a lot of money.

[LT] Yeah.

[DW] Ok.

00:28:02 [LT] So that would have been part of that conflict, I think. But you know when we would go in to a place like Lasalle Park we basically went in and paved those streets under the HUD grant so they really got their streets paved to some extent maybe before a lot of streets were fixed up in the neighborhoods where the people had to pay for it. It was a fairly large area around LaSalle High School that had really bad streets and we had a lot of conflicts about who was gonna reconstruct those streets but there wasn't any federal aid. Subsidized neighborhood so we couldn't build.

[DW] Now in order to receive federal funds you had to be declared sort of a slum area or a what was the criteria for that.

[LT] Well, I don't think the word slum was ever used let's put it that way. In fact, I'm trying to think of the wording and criteria. It was probably just deteriorated housing infrastructure. Of all the components all of them they went back in, but we never called them slum neighborhoods.

00:29:36 [DW] And LaSalle Park it's hard for me to sort of wrap my mind around what it must have been like in the 50s and 60s and was it like one of the most deteriorated areas of the city?

[LT] Yeah.

[DW] At that point.

[LT] Yeah there was two areas that were if you went around did a survey of the entire city the two areas Ohio-Keasey and Lasalle Park. Lasalle was much larger than Ohio-Keasey but those two neighborhoods were kind of the bottom of the list of things that areas being redeveloped and what's interesting to me and I don't know if you ever got into it but in 19... I'm gonna say around 1968-69 somewhere along in there South Bend was a model city.

[DW] Ok, I head a little bit about it but I'm fairly ignorant to the program.

00:30:44 [LT] In fact, my wife was gonna write a letter to the editor the other day and I told her no I don't think you ought to do that. You know the condition of the city now with all the deteriorated housing and everything she said to think this was a model city in 1969 or whenever that was.

[DW] So, the city's definitely much worse than what it was.

[LT] I don't think I want to go on record to say that obviously to become a model city it had to have some redeeming features.

[DW] Sure.

[LT] You know a fellow by the name of Chuck Lennon by any chance?

[DW] I don't. No.

[LT] You ought to interview Chuck Lennon because Chuck Lennon was the head of Model Cities.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] And chuck is now... the University of Notre Dame. The director of the alumni association at Notre Dame.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] Very, very nice guy just a real pleasant fellow and he can probably tell you more about some of that because again that came after me more or less, so he and he worked more within the neighborhoods.

[DW] Ok.

00:32:13 [LT] Than I did. When I was city engineer that's where I would work within the neighborhoods to that extent. Now I worked with Chuck real close on a lot of projects that we were doing, but that was another some degree and he would have to explain to you how that was funded but I assume that was at least partially funded through the federal government grants. You really ought to talk to him and you can just call up the alumni... Notre Dame alumni association and ask to talk to Chuck and tell him I told you to talk to him.

[DW] Will do I appreciate that.

[LT] He would be... be a real voice... there's not too many of us left as you can imagine. Forty years. The only other fella that I can think of off-hand is Howard Goodhew and he was head of the waterworks at that time. And in fact, it's kind of interesting I just had dinner Saturday night with the guy by the name of Bob Laven.

00:33:29 [DW] Bob.

[LT] You know Bob Laven Insurance?

[DW] I do. We interviewed him.

[LT] Did you?

[DW] As he was involved with the school corporation as I recall.

[LT] Right. He was on the city council.

[DW] Oh yeah at the time of the open housing ordinance. Very interesting. Very interesting gentleman.

[LT] He and I and our wives still get together. Like I say you can count on less than one hand the people left from that time. The only ones I can remember is Laven, Goodhew and I. There was a guy by the name of Chris, but he just died very recently this past fall.

[DW] I'm sorry to hear that. Do you then know of a gentleman by the name of T. Brooks Brademas?

[LT] Oh yes.

[DW] And I'm now forgetting exactly what he was involved with.

[LT] T. Brooks Brademas was a developer of housing. Really an entrepreneur. I don't wanna say he wasn't involved in the local things that... he was the kind of guy that told you how it ought to be done. You know what I mean.

[DW] Sure.

[LT] He was a big voice in the community later on.

[DW] Ok.

00:35:09 [LT] But he was not... I'm sure he was on some boards and things, but I can't tell you what boards he would have been on. He just passed away not too long ago.

[DW] Did he? Ok. That's unfortunate. I heard some rumors that he was kind of unscrupulous in some of his business dealings. If that was justified or not...

[LT] Well...

[DW] I don't know.

[LT] The person that was successful as he was is always going to be criticized. And I don't wanna say... he was not a pleasant guy to get along with. But that didn't mean he was a crook either. He just some people would rather fight with you than work with you, and he was that kind of guy. But he had a company that was really almost - at least in in the Midwest - he built housing all over the Midwest.

[DW] Ok.

00:36:13 [LT] Multi-family primarily. Of course, his brother was congressman. And that kind of came into it everybody said well you know he's got those contracts his brother was in congress.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] I don't know that to be true. His brother is still... still comes back to South Bend occasionally. He's something with the New York university. I think he's retired now. His brother's first name is John.

[DW] I've certainly seen his brother's name come up in the papers referred to as the official title.

[LT] Yes congressman. John.

[DW] It's John Brademas.

[LT] Yes.

[DW] We sort of go back to... I'm curious about LaSalle Park/Ohio-Keasey as well why those two areas specifically had the worst deterioration. Was it because they were the oldest housing stock or...

[LT] Well, no. I'm not sure I answered that. LaSalle Park was probably developed because the land was so unstable and was such a deteriorated neighborhood that it was easy for minorities to go in and buy houses there.

[DW] Ok. Because it was lesser property values.

[LT] Property values were virtually zero.

[DW] Ok.

00:38:09 [LT] In there. Ohio-Keasey maybe a little bit to that extent but not so much because the old housing stock in Ohio-Keasey and all you have to go is go down south of Ohio-Keasey to the Broadmoor area and see that those old houses in there are relatively substantial houses.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] And why that happened there I think was more or less the properties became multi- family these older houses.

[DW] Rental units.

[LT] And rental units. Probably some drug houses and things like that in there which then deteriorated the whole neighborhood. You have a drug house prostitutes around there people aren't gonna want to move in the area.

[DW] Definitely not.

[LT] But it's kind of interesting and when I say Ohio-Keasey of course you have to look at that, but it's kind of interesting that didn't go further south. It kind of stopped there and like I say the housing in the area east of that has been east of Ivy Tech would be redeveloped into pretty nice housing.

00:39:41 [DW] And was it sort of you know there's been talk about at that time do you remember William Morris? He owned a real estate company and...

[LT] William Morris...

[DW] He's an African-American man, grew up in South Bend. I think he attended Washington...

[LT] Bill Morris had an electrical contracting company. Is that...

[LT] Wait, wait. I'm sorry. Scratch that. It wasn't who you're thinking of another fella. Bill Hall. No I... I do re... the name Morris is familiar but I can't pinpoint.

[DW] The reason I mention it is partly because he had done a lot of work I think both those areas as an African-American who catered to I think pretty much an African American clientele and you know there's a lot of... in his opinion in the reading I've done a lot of barriers to open housing in South Bend in the neighborhoods were fairly well segregated. African Americans lived in small pockets and there were mostly predominately white areas...

[LT] That's true. That would be true. But it was.... I would have to say it was more of an economic thing than it was a prejudice thing.

[DW] Ok. I have trouble understanding that.

00:41:19 [LT] If it's a deteriorating neighborhood you go in and you can buy a four-bedroom house for \$10,000 versus going into another neighborhood and paying \$60-\$70,000 for the same kind of property so that would be the way I would have seen it. Even at that time. There were... don't get me wrong... there were definitely problems between the black community and the white community, and I had to deal with a lot of those problems because it was right at the time when the... especially the black community was beginning to exert themselves.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] And [laughs]. My wife said show him the picture here your son with the broken nose. Because there was big fight at Washington High School between the minorities and somebody hit Steve from behind and he never knew who hit him. He was in the hall when the fight broke out and he got hit.

[DW] So, he got suckered.

00:42:41 [LT] He got a broken nose but fortunately that was all that got. There was some real problems of course he had gangs going down the street

breaking windows and things like that during that period and time this would have been my son graduated in '70. '70 or '71 from Washington High School and there was racial problems there at that time. It's been amazing to us how Washington high school has done a complete turnaround.

[DW] How so?

[LT] Well, academically back when our kids were in high school our kids were all very successful in high school but if... you talked to people you told them my kids go to Washington. "Your kids go to Washington high school?"

[DW] It sort of had this stigma.

[LT] Washington was at the bottom of the heap. Adams was at the top

[DW] Ok.

00:43:55 [LT] Clay was just almost even with Adams. Clay being the all-white basically school. Then there was Riley, which became Jackson and it was kind of in the middle. I just read the other day in the paper Washington graduation rate is like 1 percent less than clay. Clay is at the top of the graduation list. Washington is second one percent below. Then it's Adams and Riley.

[DW] Ok. Wow. It's been a reversal.

[LT] A complete reversal. And you can read in the paper every day about the wonderful things the kids at Washington are doing.

[DW] Girls basketball team. As far as academics.

[LT] The academics... what is it the bowl they have. Not speech...

[DW] Sort of like a Quiz Bowl.

[LT] Quiz bowl.

[DW] Trivia.

[LT] They're at the top. Number one.

[DW] No kidding.

00:45:05 [LT] In the quiz bowl. Beat Washington, beat clay... I'm mean beat Clay and Adams and all of them. Right at the top. And everybody we talk to now. We had three kids there and two of them have a Ph.d's now. And my

son went into the military and spent 28 years in the Marines has a master's degree in naval something or another.

[DW] Wow, that's fantastic. So, Washington...

[LT] He's the most successful of the three because he's in retirement from the Marines and working for Lockheed Martin now.

[DW] Wow. That's very successful. So, Washington served them very well.

[LT] Yeah.

[DW] Washington at the time must have been a pretty well integrated school.

[LT] Yeah it was yeah.

[DW] And LaSalle Park in general was pretty well integrated although the lake was predominately African-American.

[LT] Right.

[DW] But the neighborhood overall was...

[LT] The area to the south of Washington high school across Western Avenue was a white neighborhood. Middle income maybe even a little bit below that. Working class people, totally working-class people. And of course, back in those days that's where the conflicts came in.

[DW] Ok.

[LT] The white kids were not going to be pushed around and the black kids I'm not going to be pushed around, so they pushed on each other. There was quite a little problem there for a while.

[Audio ends]